

Message Text

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FOR OWENS, EUR/NE

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TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: BIO OF KING CARL XVI GUSTAF

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

FOLLOWING IS SHORT BIO OF NEW KING. SWEDISH INSTITUTE
PUBLISHED BIO IN ENGLISH IN AUGUST, WHICH SHOULD BE
AVAILABLE AT SWEDISH EMBASSY.

CARL XVI GUSTAF BECAME KING OF SWEDEN UPON THE DEATH
OF HIS GRANDFATHER SEPT 15, 1973. BORN APRIL 30, 1946.
HE IS YOUNGEST SWEDISH KING IN OVER 200 YEARS AND
ACCORDING TO MEDIA YOUNGEST REIGNING MONARCH IN WORLD.
PARENTS: PRINCE GUSTAF ADOLF (KILLED IN AN AIR CRASH
ON JANUARY 26, 1947) AND THE LATE PRINCESS SIBYLLA,
BORN PRINCESS OF SACHSEN-COBURG GOTHA.

SECONDARY EDUCATION AT SIGTUNA HUMANISTISKA GYMNASIUM,
A PRIVATE SCHOOL FROM WHICH HE GRADUATED WITH RATHER
MEDIocre GRADES, ONE REASON BEING THAT HE IS TROUBLED
BY ALEXIA. LATER ON STUDIED AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY,
WITHOUT AIMING AT ANY DEGREE. FOLLOWING THIS, THE THEN
CROWN PRINCE WAS THE SUBJECT OF A CAREFULLY PLANNED
REGIMEN OF EDUCATION, AS DECIDED BY A SPECIAL ADVISORY
GROUP. HE HAD BRIEF PERIODS OF SERVICE IN THE VARIOUS
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BRANCHES OF THE SWEDISH ARMED FORCES, AS IS CUSTOMARY

FOR A CROWN PRINCE. IN 1967, DURING HIS TIME WITH THE SWEDISH NAVY, HE SERVED AS A MIDSHIPMAN ON AN EXTENSIVE CRUISE WHICH ALSO BROUGHT HIM TO THE UNITED STATES. THE ORIENTATION PROGRAM ALSO ENTAILED VISITS TO INDUSTRIES AND GOVERNMENTAL UNITS TO ADD TO HIS EXPERIENCE. THIS INCLUDED SERVICE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS PART OF THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. HE ALSO SPENT SOME TIME WITH SWEDISH COMPANIES ABROAD. HIS ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARE EXCELLENT, AND HE SPEAKS FAIR GERMAN.

AFTER HE REACHED THE AGE OF 25, THE CROWN PRINCE SERVED AS REGENT WHEN THE KING WAS ABSENT FROM SWEDEN. HE DID WELL FILLING IN FOR HIS GRANDFATHER, AND HIS POISE AND EFFECTIVENESS AS A SPEAKER HAVE IMPROVED MARKEDLY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. HE WAS VERY CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT HIS JOB AS CROWN PRINCE, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE AS KING.

IN A TV INTERVIEW IN 1970 HE GAVE HIS VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF A KING: "A KING MUST BE ABSOLUTELY LOYAL TO HIS PEOPLE. I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO MEET THE DEMANDS ON ME. A PRESENT-DAY KING MUST BE IN STEP WITH THE TIMES, HE MUST NOT MOVE SO FAST AS TO APPEAR RADICAL, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND HE SHOULD NOT OPPOSE CHANGES OF WAYS AND PROCEDURES ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE APPROPRIATE ONCE UPON A TIME. THIS BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO CAN BE DIFFICULT. A MODERN MONARCH MUST BE WELL AWARE THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND HE SHOULD BE READY TO COMPROMISE."

THE NEW SWEDISH CONSTITUTION, TO BE FINALLY APPROVED NEXT YEAR BY THE RIKSDAG, WILL STRIP THE NEW KING OF ALL POLITICAL POWER AS OF JANUARY 1, 1975, MAKING HIS DUTIES REPRESENTATIVE AND CEREMONIAL.

LIKE ANY OTHER YOUNG MAN, AS CROWN PRINCE CARL GUSTAF ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF GOODLOOKING WOMEN, AND THERE HAVE BEEN THE UNAVOIDABLE RUMORS ABOUT SWEETHEARTS AND "AFFAIRS." PRESENTLY, HE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY FAVORITE AND THIS PART OF HIS SOCIAL LIFE WILL DOUBTLESS BE MORE CIRCUMSCRIBED NOW. CARL GUSTAF CAN NOW MARRY ANY GIRL HE LIKES, SINCE HE HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE ACT OF SUCCESSION, CAN DECIDE ABOUT MARRIAGE, AFTER HAVING OBTAINED THE OPINION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM THE THRONE IF HE HAD MARRIED A COMMONER PRIOR TO THE SUCCESSION.

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CARL GUSTAF IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN SPORTS, IS A GOOD SKIER AND SAILOR AND DOES SOME CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

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IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE KING'S PERSONALITY. HE IS SHY AND CERTAINLY NOT A DYNAMIC, WILLFUL, DOMINATING

FIGURE. HE GIVES A SLIGHT IMPRESSION OF UNSURENESS, OF IMMATURITY EVEN THOUGH HE IS 27 YEARS OLD (THE SWEDES, USED TO VERY OLD MONARCH, STILL TEND TO THINK OF HIM AS JUVENILE). HE IS SAID TO HAVE A WARM AND SPARKLING PERSONALITY IN PRIVATE, THOUGH NO ONE HAS DESCRIBED HIM AS A GREAT INTELLECT. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS ABOUT A TOUCH OF WILDNESS - PARTIES, GERMAN GIRLFRIENDS, ETC. BUT APPARENTLY THERE IS LITTLE FOUNDATION FOR THESE BEYOND THE FACT THAT THE KING LIKED TO HAVE A GOOD TIME AND DID GO TO PARTIES OCCASIONALLY. AND, OF COURSE, HE WAS A CROWN PRINCE, AND UNMARRIED, AND IS QUITE HANDSOME. IN SUM, WE SEE HIM AS A MODERATELY EQUIPPED YOUNG MAN WHO WILL TAKE HIS JOB SERIOUSLY, WHO WILL TAKE ADVICE AND NOT MAKE WAVES, WHO WILL BE A GOOD CEREMONIAL FIGUREHEAD FOR SWEDEN, AND WHO WILL PROBABLY BE KING FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

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